



Mr. + Mrs. Charles E. Loops  
5418-13th St, N.W.  
Washington, (D) D.C.

U.S.A.

Censored by:  
FW Loops, H.A.C.

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 21043



Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Leaps  
5418-13th St. N.W.  
Washington, (D) DC  
U.S.A.

H. Frank W. Leaps C-667582  
(Sender's name)

432 S. 9th St. 17th Bldg. 6p  
(Sender's address)

A.P.O. 658, 2nd Postmaster APC

May 3, 1944  
(Date)

Hello, Folks.

Got a couple of V-mails from Sister today - the first mail in several days. Quite a nice feeling to have a little mail come in, too. The one letter wasn't a letter - but a poem!

You should see me trying to play an accordion these days! - One of the officers got one from some place and I borrowed it. Got some sheet music and mastered the piano type book for a couple of songs! - Even picked out a couple of others by ear. (You should see me read music - takes about 10 seconds for me to read off the staff to decide what note it is! - So that way for each note, too!) I believe I can master that part alright - but the left hand has me stumped. All those little black buttons for your left hand are 'ends' already made up. Major & minor ones of all keys. Guess you just have to place 'em all of them and fit 'em in with the other notes. Am afraid it's too difficult to do according to Hogle - but it sure is fun to play around with.

a mission again tomorrow, so keep 'em crossed - but hold  
shut! Am on the  
have stretch now?

V-MAIL

Love Love Love  
Frank

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.  
A.P.O. 650, %Postmaster N.Y.C.  
April 24, 1944

Hiya Folks,

Was going to write you yesterday from the Red Cross in Algiers - and really don't know why I didn't! Didn't do much all day to count. Spent most of it at the airport and then went into town.

When I got in, there was a dance in progress (still dwelling on the R.C.), a tea dance, if you please! - Well - just made myself an interested spectator and watched. Gee, Whizz - such rag cutting you never saw. - All the officers have been around there so long that the local population jitter bugs with the best of 'em! There is

2!

also a snack bar thru of great attraction. - They are opened in between regular meal hours and besides the usual spam, cheese, peanut butter, etc, they always manage to have cake or cookies. - And that's where I really shine! - I mean I had a real ice-cream sundae at the officer's club and some ice-cold cokes! - Now what more could a fellow ask after having been away from civilization so long?

This afternoon we returned to base and I guess I earned every last nickel of my pay, - at least for today! You have never seen so much of instruments & as I did for a couple of hours! I think it was the first time I



3! was ever caught in such weather  
struck by on my own. - Every other  
time I've either had an older,  
more experienced pilot along, - or  
been co-pilot - never was the  
full weight resting on me! -  
Must admit I was calling for a  
little aid just as over the target,  
and together we "dood" it!  
Sure was glad to set my feet  
on some terra firma - I kid  
you not!

A high point in my trips is  
always the coming home and  
finding lots of mail awaiting  
me - well then - just one letter!  
Had about 6 V-mails. - From Sister,  
Fred, + Brother! - After all, I was  
away for 5 days so I should  
have had a collection! - Glad  
Sister + Mama got their Easter

41  
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flowers O.K. - They had several kinds I could have sent, but most of them I couldn't ~~find~~ remember what they looked like from their names! - That just goes to show you the length of time I've been away from such things! Anyhow, I did remember what geraniums looked like, so for once, I knew what I was sending!

Had quite an odd experience in Algiers yesterday. He wanted to go to Church in the A.M. - so looked around for a place on the bulletin boards. Finally, the only thing we could find, and that in the Stars + Stripes, was a place at such and such an address where "protestant services for English speaking troops were given" - after much roaming around.



5!  
-- an inquiry among the Arabs,  
we found it. - It turned out to be  
a Methodist Missionary place,  
complete with the missionary and  
his wife! - They were very nice -  
and had a good service for about  
the 5 or 6 who came! - Everything  
was just as you read about in these  
stories of foreign missionaries. And  
with little imagination you could  
picture yourself in any one of a  
hundred places you had read  
about! -

Well, I'm back at the field, as  
I said before, and back down to  
the hard realities of war! - Please  
jump all over - tomorrow I go out  
on a different kind - according to  
the schedule. - I like to think  
each one takes me one mission  
nearer home - so keep your  
fingers crossed for awhile longer. You

6!  
-- never can tell but what  
I'll be ringing ye olde door bell,  
but soon!

Lots of Love  
Frank